

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, the 19th March 1959.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Fort St. George, at half past eight of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAU) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

Introduction of Tamil in Judicial Administration

* 11 S.N.Q.—SRI A. A. RASHEED: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether the Government have taken any decision in regard to the introduction of Tamil in the Judicial Administration in the light of the recommendations made in the report of the Law Commission?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: No, Sir.

SRI A. A. RASHEED: Is it a fact that the Law Commission has cautioned the State Government to go slow with the introduction of the regional language in judicial administration and also shelve this problem for another twenty years?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I had no time to study the Law Commission's report. But as far as our linguistic policy is concerned, we have already come to a decision, and we propose to implement it.

SRI A. A. RASHEED: May I know, Sir, whether the Government propose to abide by the recommendation of the Law Commission?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Sir, I stated already that I had not studied the report. I do not think I can give any commitment that I am going to implement all the recommendations of the Law Commission.

SRI M. JAGANNATHAN: Sir, when do the Government propose to implement the linguistic policy which has been decided upon by them?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: If the hon. Member has been following the answers I have given in this House, he will be aware that we have appointed an Implementation Committee. Also I have given a detailed account of the various steps which we are taking for the implementation of our linguistic policy.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM: Sir, what is the policy of this Government as far as law courts are concerned regarding the language to be used? Do not the Government think that the introduction of Tamil would be a very difficult affair in the light of the Law Commission's report?

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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : The hon. Member is aware that in the mufassal courts, even in the District Courts, most of the arguments are advanced only in the regional language, namely, Tamil, and cross-examination is done in Tamil. Only the recording of evidence is done in English and the judgment is delivered in English. We will have to consider how far this can be changed. But as I stated, we have already formulated a phased programme of adoption of Tamil at the various levels, and we propose to stick to it.

MR. SPEAKER : May I suggest that we take up the short notice question 14 also? It is a question by Sri A. A. Rasheed on the same subject.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Yes, Sir.

Report of the Law Commission

* 14 S.N.Q.—**SRI A. A. RASHEED :** Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Union Government have asked for the opinion of the Government on the Report of the Law Commission on Judicial Administration;

(b) if so, whether a copy of the reply sent by this Government will be placed on the table of the House?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No reply has yet been sent. The Commission's report has just been received and is under examination.

SRI A. A. RASHEED : Is it a fact, Sir, that the Law Commission report has criticised the appointment of magistrates in our State as having been made on considerations other than merit?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : All sorts of allegations have been made by the Law Commission which are not warranted by facts. As a matter of fact with reference to the appointments to the Supreme Court and the High Court, the Union Law Minister has already made a statement on the floor of the Lok Sabha. Sometimes when these Commissions are appointed, they make all sorts of allegations without reference to facts at all.

SRI A. A. RASHEED : May I know, Sir, the steps taken by the Government to make justice cheaper and quicker, as recommended by the Law Commission?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : This is always being attended to by the Government.

SRI M. JAGANNATHAN : Sir, apart from the allegations made by the Law Commission, may I know whether the Government will implement its recommendation to reduce the stamp fee?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I have just stated that the report has been received and is under consideration.